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OLUME XXXVIII - NUMBER 4 LIFE SCIENCES APRIL 1959



-Anderson, NPS





IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.



Tueeulala and Wapama Falls from Hetch Hetchy Dam, 1925

## osemite

NATURE NOTES

Since 1922, the monthly publication of the National Park Service and the Yosemite Natural History Association in Yosemite National Park.

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LUME XXXVIII

APRIL 1959

NO. 4

#### TO TUEEULALA AND WAPAMA

#### By Howard H. Cofer, Ranger-Naturalist

Although we had not planned it, were glad we made the walk in the dam at Hetch Hetchy to the se of the falls which come over north rim of the canyon. Not one itor in a hundred has heard of seulala and Wapama, and not e of a thousand has ever seen se beautiful falls.

The roar of the falls can be heard one goes through the far end of tunnel, away from the noise of water rushing through the dam. Hough both Tueeulala and Wama can be seen from the area of dam the true realization of their ruty and force is in direct proportate one's nearness to them. The ense roar of the white, foamy, hing water and the very wet ay which billows out as a result ndeed impressive.

'he average hiker will take about hour to cover the distance from dam to the falls. The only route tilable is along the road which lies between the base of the cliff and the water's edge. This road has a gradual incline and if followed leads to Miguel Meadows. About half the distance to the falls a trail is taken which eventually leads up the Tuolumne River to Tuolumne Meadows and the Tioga Road, about 44 miles distance and 4500 feet higher in elevation.

As we walked along, it was interesting to look at the reservoir some 150 to 200 feet below us. In places submerged rocks could be seen along the shore while in others the water was a deep blue, indicating great depth up to the shoreline. Far out in the water were floating logs, carried down by the Tuolumne like so many match sticks.

Brockman, in *Principal Waterfalls of the World*, lists the total height of Tueeulala as 1000 feet with an essentially free leap of not more than 600 feet. Although it generally disappears by late July, the unusually



Hetch Hetchy Valley and Falls before 1906.

heavy snow in late winter of 1958 meant abundant water coming over the rim on July 11. As we bent our necks and looked up at it, I saw a similarity to Bridalveil Fall in Yosemite Valley. Later, I was interested to read that John Muir had called it the most graceful fall he had ever seen and that he, too, compared it with Bridalveil.

Just to the left of where Tueeulalar pours over the lip a huge rock juts above the otherwise smooth horizon. We estimated it to be 30 feet in height. Across the water to the right side of the lip lies another large rock which seems to protrude several feet out over the rim. One wonders how many ages this rock has been in this position and if the forces of nature will ever cause it to fall.

Very little of the water from Tueevlala flows under the bridge on the trail at this time of the year Most of it goes under the trail by way of a flume and enters the reser voir among the rocks a few fee below the trail.

Soon, on rounding a bend and go ing over a rise in the trail, Wapama comes into view. One can see only the lower fall at first, but we wer immediately aware of a mucl greater volume of water here than in Tueeulala. A few yards farthe and we looked straight into the fac of the upper fall with its tremendou cloud of spray shooting out hur dreds of feet. There are thre bridges under which the water race to the deep blue depths of Hetc Hetchy. We were impressed wit their safe sturdy nature as we stoo looking down at the swirling whit water. At first you wondered abou crossing such a torrent of water bi

ne solid appearance of the 4-inch lanks in the flooring and the heavy ock foundations soon quell your oubts. It had been hot on the trail nd the cooling mist was more than relcome. It reminded us of the Mist rail in early summer on the way to ernal Fall.

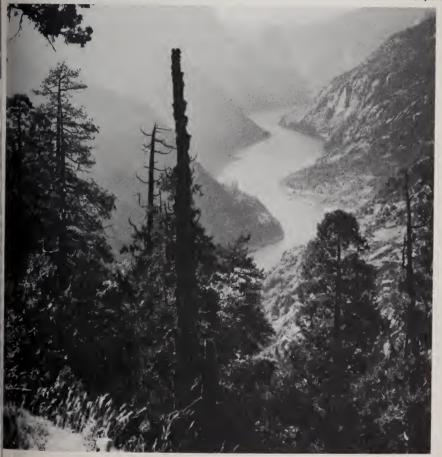
The topographic map of Yosemite ational Park gives 1500 feet as the stal drop of Wapama. No figures are been found as to the height of a individual drops. They are close gether and, as John Muir said, the stire fall "seems to be nearly vertical when one is standing in front of

it . . ."

Standing at the base of Wapama Fall, using one's imagination and going back to the time before this valley was covered with water, one is impressed with its similarity to Yosemite Valley. Early pictures of Hetch Hetchy confirm what you have visualized. Even though the precipitous walls come down to the water's edge in many places and form a beautiful setting, one can't help but wish for the natural, unflooded valley with its winding Tuolumne River into which these waterfalls once emptied.

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, 1942

-Anderson, NPS



#### PRESIDENTIAL VISITS TO YOSEMITE

#### By Marvin R. Koller, Ranger-Naturalist

#### Conclusion

In 1909 another President arrived while still in office. This time the distinguished visitor was not the outdoor type. The President was William Howard Taft and his greatest problem seemed to be his weight. An aide wrote that President Taft weighed 320 pounds and that while he was amiable and would do whatever was required of him, he should not be allowed to over-exert himself. A doctor was in the presidential party especially to watch that the President gained no more weight.

This did little good as President To was wined and dined during his entire western trip and actually gains weight thanks to the generosity whis many hosts.

At Glacier Point it was decide that a horse should be provided carry Taft down the trail to the Valley floor. A beautiful gray name Eagle was chosen to do the job bafter comparing the President with the girth of the horse it was deemed more advisable to let Eagle condown unburdened. Eagle can



FDR and Party in Yosemite Valley, July 15, 1938



President William Howard Taft and John Muir at the Grizzly Giant

-Boysen

own quite undisturbed but Presi- This meant a whole change of ent Taft did perspire profusely as clothing should be made upon his walked down from the heights. arrival at the Sentinel Hotel. However, the luggage containing the proper clothing was not available and so President Taft had to go to bed while his clothes dried in the sun along the clothesline near the Merced River. Nowhere in Yosemite could clothes be found to fit the President; hence the necessity to put him to bed!

On the occasion of this visit, President Taft met Galen Clark, then in his nineties. The following year Clark passed away and was laid to rest in his sequoia-guarded place in

the pioneer cemetery.

The one President from California was Herbert Hoover and as a resident of California he modestly visited Yosemite at various intervals. President Hoover did not visit the Park while he was in office but his admiration of Yosemite is well known.

The last President in office to come to Yosemite was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He arrived on July 15, 1938. His trip was by rail to El Portal, then by automobile. He was carefully routed from Tunnel View and Bridalveil Falls to Happy Isles and

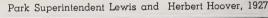
out the Merced Road past Yosemi Falls. It was reliably reported the the President was "enraptured." He "ohed" and "ahed" much as anyor impressed by the grand scenes before them.

President Dwight D. Eisenhow has been to Yosemite, too, but n while in office. He came while General with NATO, shortly befor he became President of the Unite States.

Thus, the visits of Presidents we many times the usual sightseeir and momentary vacations. However as you have noted by now, the were momentous results from son visits and we may quite rightly coclude as President Garfield wrote the Grand Register: "No one of thoughtfully study the Valley and surroundings without being broominded thereafter."

(See "We Will Pitch Camp at Bride veil" by Ralph Anderson, Yosem Nature Notes, Vol. XXX, May 195 No. 5, pp. 42-46, and "Roosevelt at Muir - Conservationists" by Richa Hartesveldt, Yosemite Nature Not Vol. XXXIV, November 1955, No. 2

pp. 133-136.)





#### RECENT OBSERVATIONS OF THE PINE MARTEN IN YOSEMITE

#### By John D. Cunningham, Ranger-Naturalist

The pine marten (Martes americana rrae), while not an especially rare ammal of the Sierra Nevada, is of frequently seen by the average sitor to Yosemite. This interesting simal is about the size of a house at and is usually found in or near ckslides in forested areas from the diffirm belt to timberline.

As ranger-naturalists and other terested persons go about their ork in Yosemite, they notice interting or unusual facts about the iddlife of the region. These facts ad all related data are recorded in nall pocket notebooks and latered in the Museum. Several recent eservations on the pine marten are teresting.

The marten appears to be a curus mammal and can sometimes be vestigated quite closely. Rangerturalist Larry Richards observed e near Tuolumne Pass from a disace of only six feet at 3:30 in the ternoon in September, 1957. In igust, 1957, Ranger-naturalist W. Carpenter watched a marten ar May Lake. It was in a hollow imp and would peek out at him casionally. Each time it retreated o the safety of the stump, it would nit a short growl. The day before, . Carpenter watched another mar-1 at about noon near Badger Pass it crossed a log with something in mouth.

Martens have been observed high ove timberline crawling in and tof rocks at an elevation of 12,500



Sierra Pine Marten

feet on Mt. Dana. Grinnel and Storer in their Animal Life in the Yosemite record the marten as occurring only to an elevation of 10,350 feet. Occasionally, especialy in winter, the marten will also retreat to a lower

elevation than usual. On a November morning in 1949, a marten was observed investigating an old wood pile behind the Fish Hatchery at Happy Isles. This is the lowest elevation at which the marten has thus far been found in Yosemite. Another marten was observed on the Vernal Fall trail, three-quarters of a mile from Happy Isles, in 1926.\* Happy Isles is cool and damp and represents the lowest elevation at which several other animal species have been captured.

Martens apparently are playful animals and somewhat gregarious. Several have been seen together at various times. Near Merced Pass on a September morning, six were seen playing and lounging on the rocks in the sun. When disturbed they disappeared in the rocks, but within five mnutes, two of them reappeared and again took their positions. On the ridge near Huckleberry Lake on May 1, 1950, the tracks of three or four martens were noted in the snow. In 1956, martens nested in the attic of Buck Camp Ranger Station.

Of the weasel tribe, the only o to hibernate, and then only unc severe conditions, is the skunk. The the pine marten is active through the winter. The snow survey cre in January, 1956, reported seei marten tracks from Snow Flat Tioga Pass. A marten peeked throu a crack in the shutter of a cabin Tuolumne Meadows. After being d turbed, this animal ran around t outside of the cabin for 15 minute Another marten had visited t Tioga Pass Ranger Station and vestigated some cans left outside t building.

There is much to be learned abore Yosemite's animals, and one do not have to be a trained zoologist make a significant contribution. A mal activity which is interesting even seemingly ordinary is worth of note. Take time out from scurring here and there over Yosemite trails to jot down a few natural here observations!

\*See Russell, C. P., Yosemite Nata Notes, Vol. V, Dec., 1926, No. p. 94.

Waterwheel Falls on the Tuolumne River

-Anderson, N



52

#### A NEW SERIES OF HISTORICAL COMPARISON PICTURES

At 10:30 a.m. on June 18, 1859 the first photographic plate ever to be xposed in Yosemite Valley was made. A special issue telling of this event, nd the research undertaken to find an original print, is planned for the ane issue of Yosemite Nature Notes.

A series of historical comparison pictures will be published from time time to commemorate the early photographers who carried their enormous ameras over non-existent trails, eighty to one hundred years ago.

For this series we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood, Yosemite lational Park's indefatigable collaborators, who have, during the past everal summers devoted their attention to the early photographic records f the park. They are now engaged in retaking as many as possible of nese old views.

We regret that many pictures will be undated. Any help from our eaders will be most welcome. We would also like to take this opportunity thank the libraries and persons who have allowed us to reproduce items om their collections.

The Editor

#### YOSEMITE'S FIRST BRIDGE



On the evening of June 21, 1859, Rev. Ferdinand C. Ewer made the pencil sketch of Yosemite's first bridge. James M. Hutchings, who visite Yosemite Valley with Rev. Ewer, refers to this bridge as follows:

"Our guide announced that the horses were ready . . . we were soon in our saddles and off. After crossing a rude bridge over the main stream, which is here about sixty feet in width and eight feet deep at this season of the year, we kept to the north bank a short distance . . ."

Hutchings' California Magazine, V. 4, p. 19 Photo courtesy of California Historical Society, San Francisc



In almost the same location, the Sentinel Bridge was built in 1918 and as regarded as wholly adequate to withstand high water and increasing itor use. Today it is with difficulty that buses and autos squeeze by one other. Most visitors prefer to regard it as one-way and good-naturedly te turns crossing. Fishermen and photographers "stand slim" along the prow sidewalks and the park engineers consider the future of this structure as everincreasing numbers of people visit the park.

Photo by A. W. Hood - September 9, 1958

#### TREES CHANGE SLOWLY AT HIGH ALTITUDES

#### By Neva Snell and Frances Carter





These lodgepole pines have changed very little in twenty-two years in spite of their exposed location just over the crest of a windswept ridget about 9,100 feet elevation. Of particular interest is the tenacity of small dead twigs, such as the lowest one on the left side. The taller tree of the clump shows slight growth at the top, while a few lower branches on bot trees have died back.

The 1935 photograph was taken to show the nesting hole of a pair c Modoc Woodpeckers (located by the white arrow about one-third of th way up the slanting trunk). The hole appeared to be unoccupied on brie inspection in late June, 1957, and during several hours observation of July 1, 1958. These dates may have been too early at this elevation. The 1935 observation was probably made about July 10.

These trees are in a research area in the Park, north of Yosemite Valley

PHOTOS:

Left side: 1935 Photographer unknown.

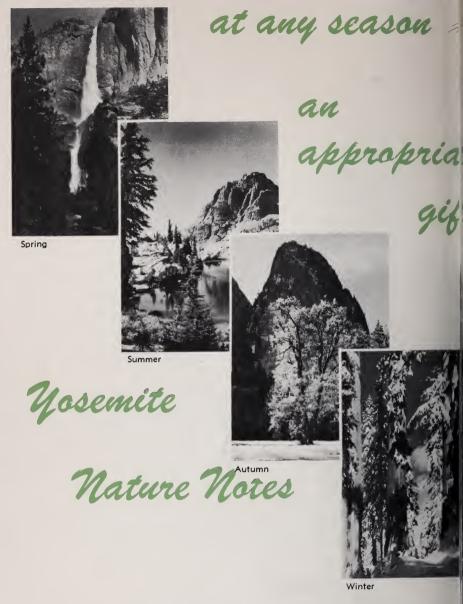
Right side: 1957 Neva Snell

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